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| CNY      | 8088  |
| Parish   | 1012  |
| Rec'd    | 2011  |

**RICHMOND DISTRICT COUNCIL HIGHWAYS DEPOT,  
GATHERLEY ROAD, BROMPTON ON SWALE  
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**Planning Decision C1/12/49Q/FUL**



JB Archaeological Services

On behalf of

**Jacobs**

February 2011

Rec'd by hand. Date unknown.

Arch Info 21/10

1012 parish  
C8088.  
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E5943

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**RICHMOND DISTRICT COUNCIL HIGHWAYS DEPOT,  
GATHERLEY ROAD, BROMPTON ON SWALE  
NORTH YORKSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*Summary*

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the Richmondshire District Council Highways Depot on Gatherley Road, Brompton-on-Swale, North Yorkshire. The watching brief was on the various stages of ground works for the refurbishment of the depot (Planning Decision C1/12/49Q/FUL). The highways depot lies at the western end of Gatherley Road in the village of Brompton-on-Swale which itself is c.5km east-south-east of Richmond (NGR NZ 2220 0028).*

*The monitored works were on the removal of existing concrete slabs and other structures and the excavation of new services and underground tanks. The watching brief recorded that the majority of the site was covered in a c.0.35m thick layer of concrete which had been laid on a c.0.3m thick layer of crushed limestone chip aggregate.*

*In the area of the materials stockpile in the north-eastern part of the site, an area of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was recorded along with an undatable spread of heat affected stones.*

*Towards the western side of the site, where the new services and tanks were installed, no top or sub soil was recorded in the areas monitored. Directly beneath the concrete and aggregate the naturally occurring geology of alluvial sands and gravels was encountered.*

*No other archaeological finds or features were recorded during the ground works.*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief on the highways depot at Gatherley Road, Brompton. The archaeological watching brief was on the ground works for the refurbishment of the depot (Planning Decision C1/12/49Q/FUL). The highways depot lies at the western end of Gatherley Road in the village of Brompton-on-Swale which itself is c.5km east-south-east of Richmond in Brompton-on-Swale civil parish (NGR NZ 2220 0028) (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological works were undertaken by JB Archaeological Services (JBAS) for Jacobs between March and May 2010.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

### Historic Background

- 2.1 The site lies approximately 10m to the west of the known line of Dere Street. Dere Street was one of the major Roman military roads built soon after the invasion to facilitate the control of the country. Dere Street is the Saxon name for the road which is a continuation of Ermine Way running from York, via Aldborough and Catterick and then on to Corbridge in Northumberland. Several sections of the current A1/A1(M) run along the line of Dere Street. The early Ordnance Survey maps show the area as open fields.
- 2.2 The place name for Catterick is first recorded in c.150 AD as *Katouraktonion* and then over the following centuries as: *Cataractone* in the 4<sup>th</sup> century; by Bede in 730 as *Cataractam uicum*; then in Domesday Book of 1086 as *Catrice*; in 1198 as *Cateriz*; in 1231 as *Kateric*; in 1238 as *Catrich*; in 1308 as *Katrici*; in 1362 as *Catrik*; in 1396 as *Catteryke* and finally in 1536 as *Catheryk* (Morris, 1982, 41). The name *Cataractam uicum* recorded in 730 by Bede is taken to show Anglo-Saxon occupation (IBID, 60) which is borne out by the presence of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery to the north of the site. The name itself comes from the Latin *cataracta* meaning waterfall, though this is apparently a misunderstanding of the original Celtic place-name meaning '(place of) battle ramparts' (Mills, 1998, 73).

### Geology and Soils

- 2.3 The underlying solid geology of the site is of Namurian millstone grit of the Upper Carboniferous (British Geological Survey, 2001) which is overlain by a quaternary geology of sands and gravels of river terraces (British Geological Survey 1977). The soils that have weathered from this are the Wick 1 association which are deep well drained, coarse loamy and sandy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

### Topography and Land-use

- 2.4 The site lies in an area of level ground on the eastern side of the A1 dual carriageway and towards the northern end of the settlement. The land use around the site is a modern industrial estate.

### 3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objective of the watching brief was to identify and record any features of archaeological interest revealed or damaged during the various ground works for the refurbishment. The specific aims were to:

- archaeologically record (graphically and photographically) any archaeological features revealed by the ground works
- recover any archaeological artefacts and environmental material exposed by the ground works

### 4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 All of the monitored ground works were undertaken using a wheeled mechanical excavator with a toothed bucket (due to the amount of concrete and hardcore) under direct archaeological supervision. The ground works consisted of cutting the trenches for the foundations of a new storage area, new service trenches and four underground tanks (Figure 2 and Plate 1).

4.2 During the ground works the exposed ground surfaces were inspected for archaeological features and the resulting topsoil stockpiles were monitored for archaeological artefacts.

### 5.0 RESULTS

5.1 The excavations in the area for material storage in the north-eastern corner of the site resulted in the removal of material down to 0.75m below current ground level. This resulted in the removal of the post-medieval field system (context 002 a brown silty-clay - truncated plough soil) and part of the underlying medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. What remained of the medieval ridge and furrow was the top of the ridges (Plates 2 & 3, Figure 3). The ridge and furrow is aligned north-south and appears to continue into the site to the north. A brief inspection of this neighbouring site to the north showed that it has undergone a brief archaeological investigation and in one location pits have been identified below the ridge and furrow.

5.2 The ridges are represented by light brown silty-clay [003] and were identified in section and recorded in a plan. This context was a light brown silty-clay evident as clear bands or ridges 2m wide with the interval between the two ridges of 6.8m. The furrow [005] between the ridges was a reddish brown clay with frequent, rounded stones. At the western end of the trench a small area of heat affected stones [004] was recorded protruding from a loamy/clay deposit, some of the stones were obviously fire-cracked. Context [004] was a brown silty-clay with large rounded heat affected stones up to 0.25m diameter (Plate 4). No artefacts were identified within this deposit. There was no form identifiable to this deposit and, as it was going to be left *in situ*, it was not investigated further.

- 5.3 In the western part of the site the areas of watching brief recorded that this part of the site appeared to have previously been topsoil stripped prior to the laying of a c.0.3m thick layer of limestone hardcore [007] and a c.0.35m thick layer of partially reinforced concrete [006]. Beneath this were the undisturbed, naturally occurring alluvial sands and gravels [008] (Plates 5 & 6). The previous topsoil stripping when the site was originally developed appears to have removed any archaeological remains, should anything have been present originally.
- 5.4 The archaeological monitoring in the western part of the site only covered the cutting of the new drains (in red on Figure 2). The proposed tanks (in blue on Figure 2), if they were installed, were not monitored as the project archaeologist was not notified.
- 5.5 No other archaeological features or artefacts were encountered during the ground works.

## 6.0 DISCUSSION and CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 As can be seen from the results described above, the original development appears to have removed any archaeology that may have been present over the western portion of the depot. In the eastern portion the archaeological remains can be seen to have been truncated by the creation of the depot.
- 6.2 Although the remains of the ridge and furrow cultivation were truncated, it would seem reasonable to assume that it may have originally covered a much wider area, possibly even the whole of the site.

## References

- Mills AD (1998) *Dictionary of English Place-names*. Oxford University Press. Oxford.
- 1977 Geological Survey Ten Mile Map South Sheet Quaternary. British Geological Survey
- 1983 Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 1 Northern England. Soil Survey of England and Wales. Lawes Agricultural Trust, Harpenden
- 2001 Geological Survey 1:625,000 Map South Sheet Solid Geology. British Geological Survey

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Andy Court of Jacobs for inviting me to undertake the project and David Abbott and his team from JN Bentley for their freely given co-operation in completing the watching brief.

## APPENDIX I

### Context Catalogue

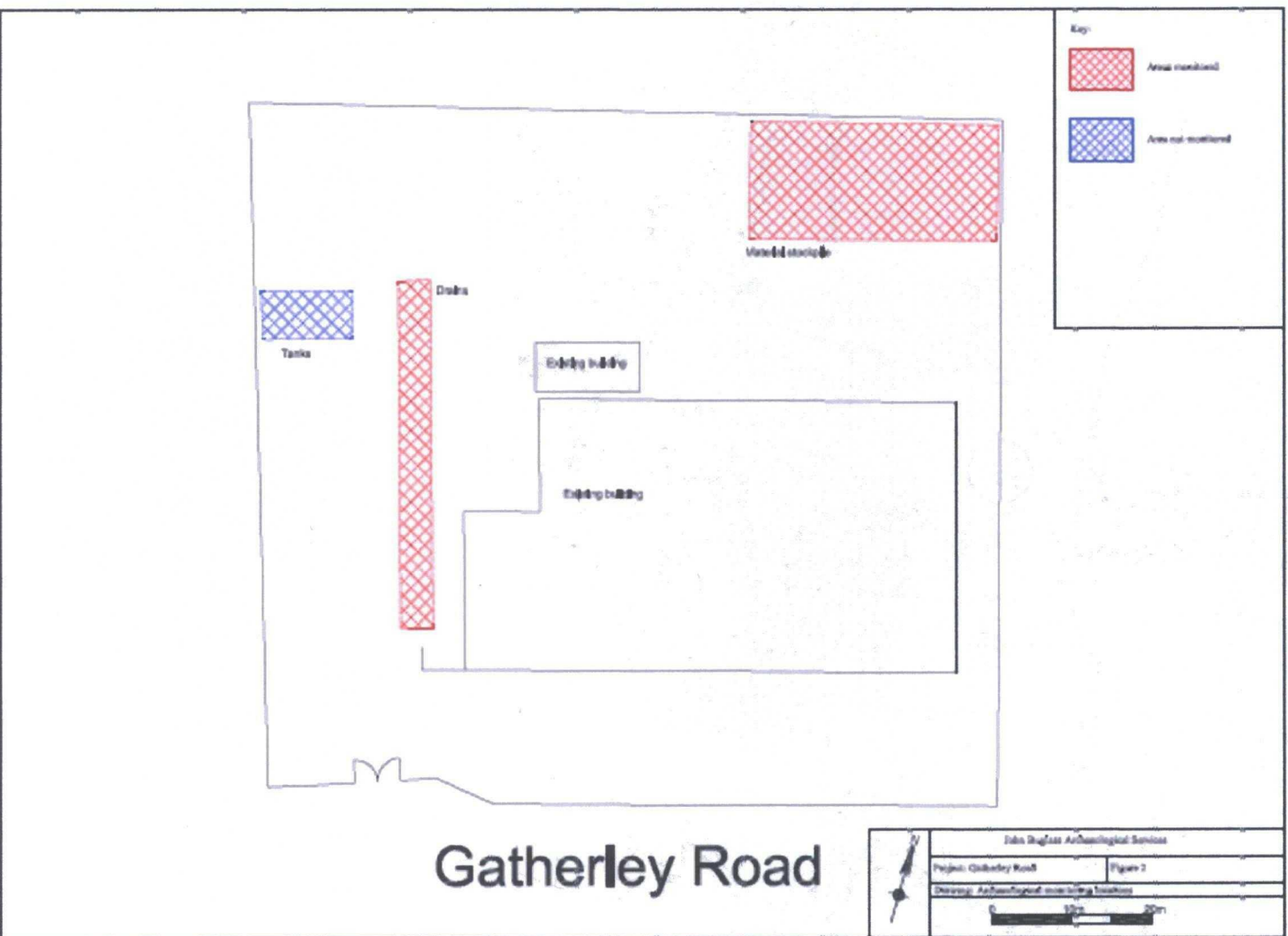
- 001 Aggregate.
- 002 Brown silty clay, truncated plough soil, containing rounded and sub-angular stone 0.15m, diameter up to 0.35m deep.
- 003 Light brown silty clay evident as clear bands or ridges 2m wide interval between two ridges 6.8m.
- 004 Brown silty clay with large rounded heat affected stones up to 0.25m diameter otherwise no other artefacts.
- 005 Reddish brown clay with frequent rounded stone, representing the furrow.
- 006 Concrete yard surface 0.35m thick.
- 007 Limestone aggregate make up for concrete 006, 0.3m thick.
- 008 Natural sands and gravels.

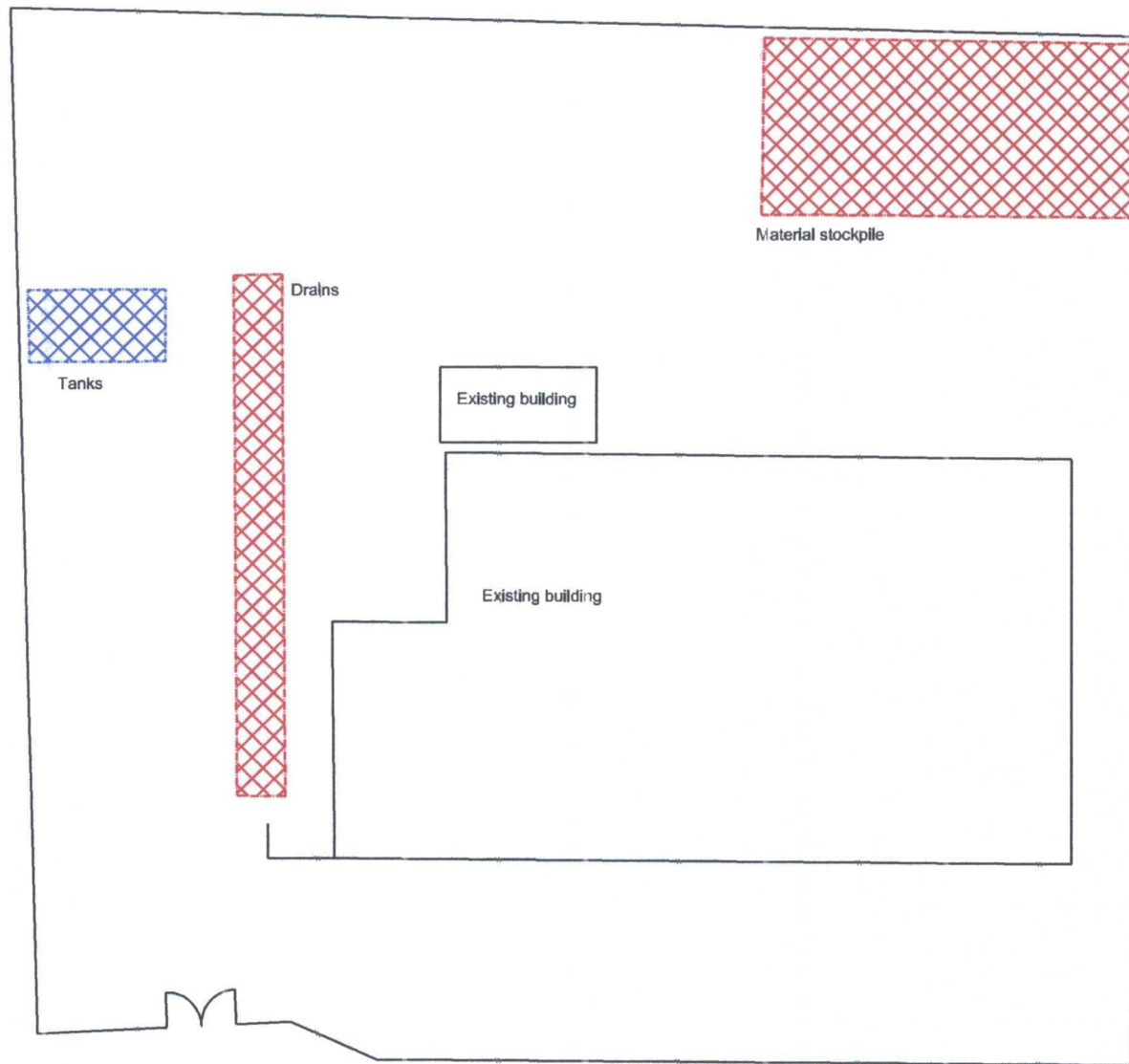


ILLUSTRATIONS





Figure 1. Site Location







Key:

 Areas monitored

 Area not monitored

Gatherley Road

|   |   |          |
|---|---|----------|
|  | John Buglass Archaeological Services  |          |
|   | Project: Gatherley Road   | Figure 2 |
|   | Drawing: Archaeological monitoring locations  |          |
|   |  |          |

Richmond Council Highways Depot, Gatherley Road, North Yorkshire  
Archaeological Watching Brief

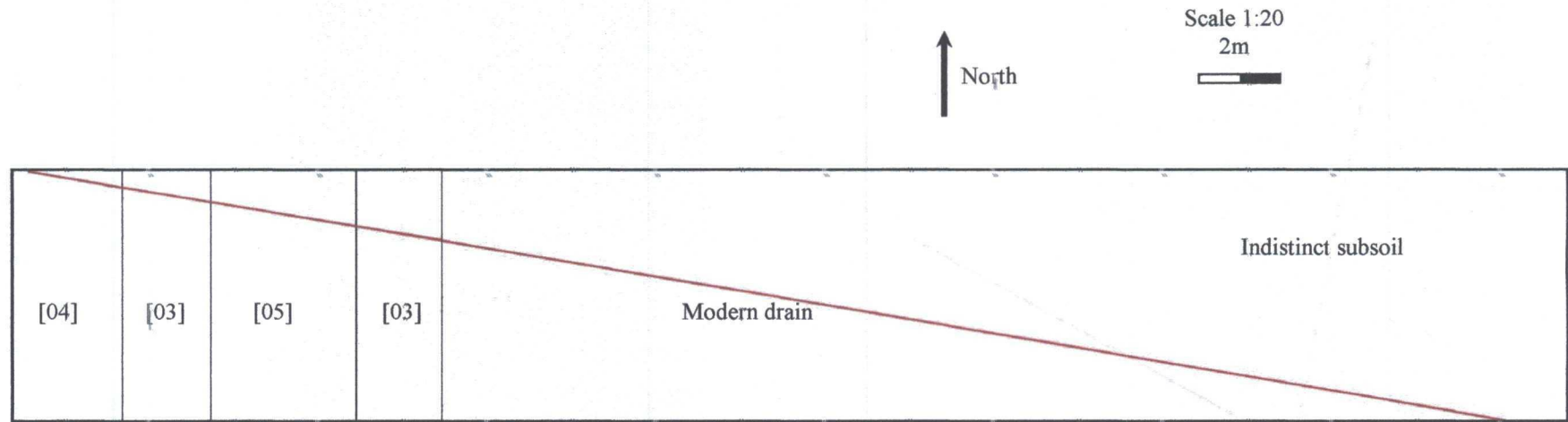


Figure 3. Plan of ridge and furrow in area of the materials stockpile.



Plate 1. General view to north-east of stockpile area during works.

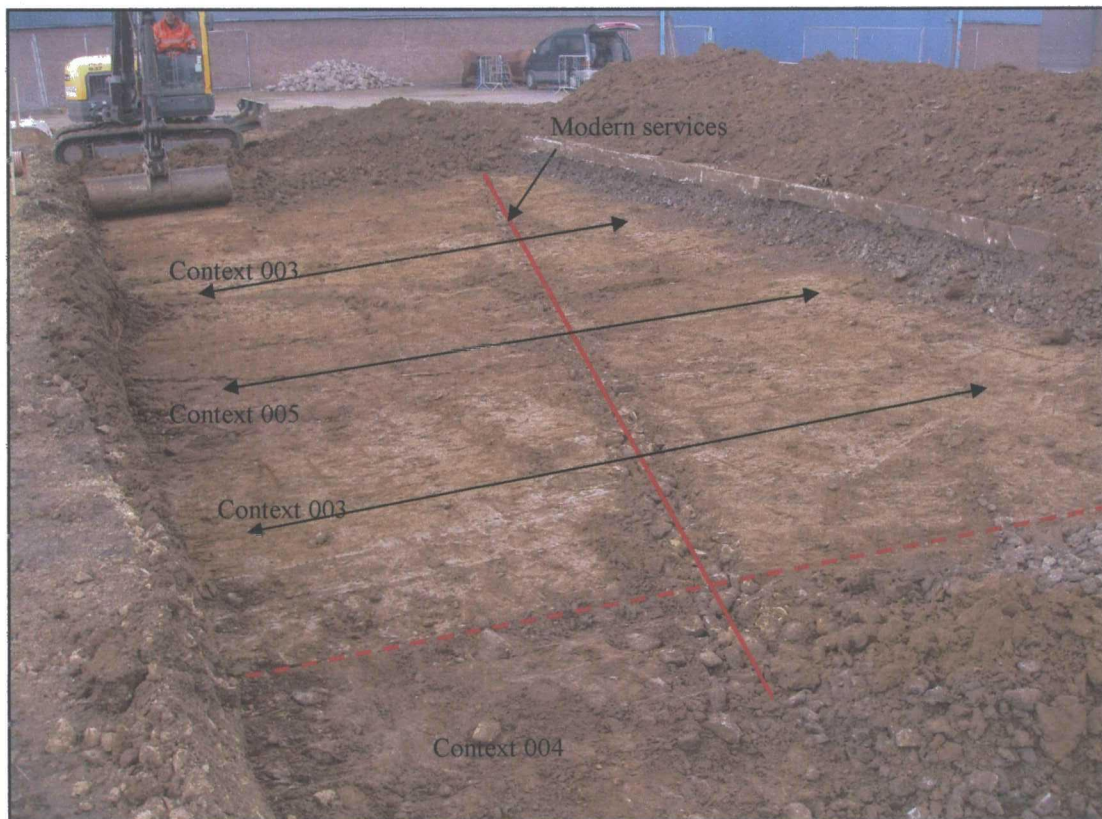


Plate 2. Ridge and furrow in stockpile area. Looking south-east.



Plate 3. Profile of ridge and furrow in stockpile area. Looking north, scales 1m.



Plate 4. Context 004 – area of heat affected stones.



Plate 5. General view of excavation of service trench.



Plate 6. Typical section through side of manhole trench.